Bro ∴ Adamson

of Perth

BY MUSER.

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BRO ∴ ADAMSON OF PERTH.

Scene. A Masonic Lodge in Edinburgh. The Brethren are assembled in Lodge. The business of the Lodge is just about to commence when an alarm is heard at the Tyle.

Time. 1860.

Tyler "There is an alarm at the Tyle, Right Worshipful Master."

R.W.M. "See who waits." (The Tyler interrogates then reports:—)

Tyler "A Brother bearing the name of Henry Adamson seeks admission to this Lodge."

R.W.M. "Henry Adamson. Can any of the Brethren vouch for this visiting Brother?" No one answers.

R.W.M. "Can this Brother produce any credentials proving that he is a genuine Mason?"

Tyler "No, Right Worshipful Master, he carries no credentials, but he states that he is furnished with the secrets of a Master Mason."

R.W.M. "The door of the Lodge is not unduly closed against any Brother, but we must be cautious. If this Brother cannot produce any credentials proving his Initiation into the genuine secrets of Free and Accepted Masonry, then he must be tried and tested." "Tyler, will you enquire of the visitor the

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name of his Lodge?"

Tyler "I will, Right Worshipful Master."
The Tyler passes the word to the Outer Guard, who speaks to the visitor, after which the Tyler answers:—
"Brother Adamson informs the Lodge that he has been properly Initiated into a Regular Lodge, and he says the name of his Lodge is 'The Crown of Thorns,' No. 3, of Perth."

R.W.M. "'The Crown of Thorns,' of Perth, Brethren, there is no Lodge bearing that name under our jurisdiction. This man seeks to impose his presence upon this Lodge, we must . . . .
A further alarm is heard.
"See who waits, Tyler."

Tyler "The visiting Brother, Right Worshipful Master, informs the Lodge that he possesses the Jewel of a Master Mason upon which his name is engraved, but this he will only show to the Right Worshipful Master of the Lodge."

R.W.M. "A strange procedure, and one which in the interests of Masonry, requires careful attention. Brethren, place the Lodge into a state of disorder. If this man is a Brother then he must prove himself by sign and word whilst we maintain a strict silence. If

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he is proven correctly then we may greet him as a Brother, if not, then we must censure him and remove him from this Lodge."

Whilst the Right Worshipful Master is speaking the Lodge is placed into a state of disorder.

R.W.M. "Brethren, ere we admit this man who calls himself a Brother, I warn you to speak no word. Masonry requires no speech, he shall speak a silent speech which we can understand, and in accordance with our Antient custom. Tyler, admit Mr. Henry Adamson into the Lodge."

Mr. Adamson enters the Lodge. The door is closed behind him. Adamson watches the door being closed, and as soon as this is done he turns towards the Right Worshipful Master and makes a sign, at the same time placing his feet in a certain position. Suddenly he looks about him and notices that the Lodge is in a state of disorder.

He hesitates a moment and drops his arms to his sides.

Adamson "Gentlemen, you greet me unseemly, I come not into a Lodge, but a room, I meet not Masons on the Level, but men of the world. Under such circumstances I give

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not, nor do I take. None can command, none can obey. A citizen who obeys the law is not a law breaker. Your guard without guards nought. Since then, I come only amongst citizens, it is against the law to close the door against a free man. I will depart as I came."

R.W.M. (Compelled under the circumstances to break the silence). "One moment, Good Sir, are you a Mason properly and regularly Initiated?"

Adamson "I am a citizen of a city."

R.W.M. "Do you stand upon the Level?"

Adamson "Sir, I stand upon the floor of this room—that must be apparent to you all."

R.W.M. "Masons are taught to be cautious, if you are a genuine Mason you will know why we are so placed."

Adamson "A citizen who obeys the Law must ever be cautious, aye, wise and cautious."

R.W.M. "You have sought admittance into this Lodge, you have informed us through the Tyler, that you are a Mason. How comes it then that you carry no credentials which prove and distinguish you as a Mason apart from other men."

Adamson "Does a citizen ever carry about his person his Birth Certificate?"

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R.W.M. "Come, Sir, we get no further, will you not answer my questions—and to the point."

Adamson "There are points and points, questions and questions. At a point one may answer questions, to the point another may ask, at such a point it may be dangerous to lie."

R.W.M. "Sir, if you are a true Mason we do not wish to turn you from this Lodge, will you not answer our questions as becomes a Free and Accepted Mason ?"

Adamson "Proceed, then."

R.W.M. "Where were you Initiated?"

Adamson "Your question is beyond the point."

R.W.M. "I cannot waste the time of this Lodge, I must ask you to retire."

Adamson "You opened the door to allow me entry, you close your door to shut me in, now you ask me to retire. Strange conduct, gentlemen, yet will I retire but I may seek admission into this Lodge."
(Adamson moves towards the door).

R.W.M. "One moment, Sir (Adamson turns) what do you mean when you say 'You may seek admission.'"

Adamson "That I will seek admission into a Lodge."

R.W.M. "But you are already in a Lodge."

Adamson "I am in a room. Here I see no Light which inspires me, only a closed book. I

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see no Charter which proves this room a Lodge, only a picture frame turned about. I know no Masons but men of the world. There is no creation here, nought but chaos. I see citizens of a city whose minds are confused, who speak no word, who give no sign. How then, can you say I am already in a Lodge. A Lodge is a place wherein Masons are regularly assembled, a Light shines in its darkness, it is supported by Three Pillars, its stone is both rough and smooth and its Brethren meet on the Level. One Mason is known to another by signs, tokens and particular words. I gave but received not, sought but found not. Here I meet men sitting whilst I remain in a perpendicular attitude. Is that square, gentlemen. You made efforts to try me, to prove me, but one alone cannot do it. Gentlemen, when I was made a Mason, Masonry was an infant, my Mother Lodge helped to give you birth, for, like the rose, its petals unfolded, and as it shed its petals, each petal became a symbol. Such symbols you have sought to understand, but, gentlemen, your eyes are dimmed, you see but the petal and not the rose. Your cross is a heavy one, for it weighs ignorance; cast the

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weight of ignorance from you, look deeper and you may see Light, for Light shines behind the symbols, and knowledge unveils the symbols.

I will retire, but a last word ere I leave the boundary of your threshold, your Tyler will make a report for me. Gentlemen, study well what I have given, read what I leave. I gave but you returned nought, therefore you have naught to fear for I have been cautious.

Brethren all, Farewell."

Adamson goes to the door, opens it himself, and retires.

The Brethren are in a state of bewilderment for some moments.

At last the Right Worshipful Master says:

R.W.M. " Brethren, restore the Lodge; let us remember always that the landmarks and customs of Masons must ever be preserved."

An alarm is heard at the Tyle. The Right Worshipful Master looks up quickly and says, " Tyler, see who waits, if Brother Adamson seeks admission admit him."

Tyler " Right Worshipful Master, a small packet has been handed to me from the Outer Guard; it is for the Right Worshipful Master of this Lodge from Brother Adam-

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son with greetings from his Lodge."

R.W.M. "Senior Warden, let the packet be passed to the Chair."

The packet is passed from the Senior Warden to the Senior Deacon, who passes it to the Junior Deacon, who in turn presents it to the Right Worshipful Master.

The Right Worshipful Master opens the packet and uncovers a jewel. He addresses the Brethren:—

R.W.M. "Brethren, I have presented to me a Master Mason's Jewel. It has engraved upon it the words, 'Henry Adamson, Master Mason, Crown of Thorns Lodge, Perth. A.D. 1639.' On one side it shows the symbol of a Rosycros, on the other the Compass and Square. The Jewel is of Antient design. Brethren be upstanding with the sign of Fidelity. No Mason is wise at all hours, for Masonry is enshrouded in mystery. Here then is mystery for which we have no solution. Let the sign remind us that we have secrets locked in our hearts, but those self same secrets are unlocked to those of right standing. Masons may come, Masons may go, but Masonry lives on for ever."

"Brother Adamson, (looking at the Jewel), you have brought Light into our midst.

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May it ever remain with us."

Brethren "So Mote it Be."

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Bohemian Press, Printers & Publishers, 22, Norwood Grove, Liverpool.

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